THE BIG BUSINESS OF POLICING NEW YORK

Commissioner Woods in Annual Report Tells of Progress Made---Cites Many Changes in Methods

As head of the Police Department in New York city, a great army of nearly 11,000 men, costing the city almost $18,000,000 annually, Commissioner Arthur Woods has striven to expand the scope of usefulness of this splendid force to the city.

"If we are to get from the police force the results desired," says Commissioner Woods, "it is necessary to give to police officers adequate power, full responsibility, and then to demand from them results. The inspector must be responsible for his district, the captain for his precinct, and so on; the duties must be made clear; and each officer must be made to feel that he will be supported in his efforts to accomplish results.

"A policeman is entitled to definite orders. If he is to achieve success in the work assigned to him he must be given to understand clearly and specifically just what that work is. He must not be arbitrarily interfered with or overridden. My policy has been to take no important step in the matter of reorganization without thorough consultation with members of the force especially qualified to give advice on the subject. I have made every effort to institute improvements, but only following careful study and experiment.

"The primary duty of the policeman is to protect life and property and to maintain law and order. This has been steadily kept in mind and no changes have been made or will be made which might lessen the effectiveness of the police force in these directions."

In his annual report to Mayor Mitchel the Police Commissioner calls attention to the following principal changes in administrative methods during the past year:

Consideration of police problems and methods at the weekly conferences with the inspectors.

Utilization of the knowledge and experience of commanding officers by referring to committees of inspectors specific problems of administration or procedure.

Giving opportunity to every man on the force to confer with the head of the department concerning any grievance or other matter which he might care to lay before the Police Commissioner.

Introduction of suspended sentence and probation in the less serious cases for delinquent members of the force.

Extending the authority of the chief inspector as head of the uniformed force.

Aside from the routine administrative work of the department, much attention has been given to the development of methods and procedure by which a more effective administrative control may be obtained. Revised methods of recording and reporting complaints, police action on complaints and arrests have already been put into effect. The methods of reporting in the detective bureau have been improved. Other changes both in police procedure and in the accounting and purchasing methods have been made.

Commissioner Woods reports the following comparative statistics under the heading "Arrests":

The total number of persons arrested or summoned for all causes in 1914 was 190,184, as compared with 182,011 in 1913. There were 180,491 cases disposed of during the year. Of these 134,577 were convicted, or 74.6 per cent., against 73.7 per cent. convicted in 1913 and 71.5 in 1912.

Arrests for felonies show an increase of 22.5 per cent., and convictions an increase of 24 per cent. There were 6 per cent. more arrests for misdemeanors than in 1913 and and 5.3 per cent. more convictions for those offences. Arrests for juvenile delinquency decreased 9 per cent., as compared with 1913, and 19 per cent., as compared with 1912. Convictions decreased 13 per cent. and 21 per cent. respectively. The number of summonses issued during the year decreased by 1,615, while the number of convictions increased by 120.

Notable increases in the number of arrests for other offences are indicated in the following comparison of statistics for the years 1913 and 1914:

For the sale and possession of narcotics 1,950 arrests were made as compared with 511 arrests for the same offences in 1913; in 1914, 947 were convicted, with 391 cases still pending; and 256 were convicted in 1913, with 109 cases pending.

For the illegal possession or carrying of dangerous weapons 1,723 arrests were made, an increase of 341 over the year 1913.

In 1914, 3,151 arrests were made for burglary as compared with 2,364 in 1913, an increase of 33 per cent. In the same years there were 1,660 and 1,234 convictions respectively, an increase of 34 per cent.

For grand larceny and attempted grand larceny 5,056 arrests were made in 1914, against 4,219 in 1913, an increase of 20 per cent. Convictions increased from 1,276 to 1,644, or 28 per cent.

For felonious assault and attempted felonious assault, arrests increased from 4,728 to 4,912, an increase of 4 per cent. Convictions, however, decreased 9 per cent., from 1,209 to 1,104.

Arrests by the detective bureau show an increase of 4,317 over 1913, as follows:

Crime	Arrests 1914	Arrests 1913
Felonies	12,328	9,869
Misdemeanors	[illegible]	[illegible]
Juvenile delinquency	2,780	2,833
Witnesses	353	194
Summonses	7	4
	35,160	30,783

The increase in street traffic, and particularly at places where no traffic officers were stationed, made it necessary during the year to increase the regular force assigned to traffic duty from 522 to 580.

In order to insure a greater degree of safety to pedestrians, car stop safety zones were established at a number of principal street intersections.

In the congested sections of the city twenty-nine blocks were set off as playground blocks. On these blocks, between the hours of 3 and 6 P. M. daily, except on Sundays, vehicular traffic is prohibited. On other streets vehicular traffic is restricted to a speed not exceeding eight miles an hour.

The work of the harbor police during the year was very effective. The operations of thieves along the waterfront and in the bay have been almost entirely stopped. Seven boats are on patrol in the harbor continuously; three of the boats are held in reserve for special duty and to be used while the regular patrol boats are undergoing repairs.

During the year 101,348 sick and injured persons were aided by the police and 103 rescued from drowning. Missing persons reported from outside the city numbered 1,831; of these 786 were located or returned home. During the year 4,035 persons living in the city were reported missing, of whom 3,240 were located or returned home. The bureau of identified dead was established in October, 1913. During the past year 501 cases were reported to the bureau and identification was made in 367 cases.

The work of the training school, which was formerly called the school for recruits, has been greatly extended. Formerly the course for patrolmen covered a period of thirty days. This was extended to six weeks and was again extended to twelve weeks.

In the congested sections of the city, where there are many and frequent calls for the services of a patrolman, one of the problems in police management has been the difficulty of reaching a patrolman quickly after he has left the station house for patrol duty.

All station houses in the city are connected with one another and with Headquarters by means of a special telephone system. This system, however, has not in the past provided any means by which the men on post could be reached, nor was it possible for a citizen to find a policeman immediately in an emergency.

In this connection Commissioner Woods says that an attempt had been made to solve the problem by adopting the fixed post system, an excellent plan in many respects, but wasteful of men. In a further attempt to solve this problem the system of flashlight signals was put in operation by the Commissioner in the Twenty-third precinct during the year. By this system it is possible to keep in constant touch with patrolmen on post without requiring them to remain fixed at a definite location. The precinct is divided into a number of flashlight zones; the patrol posts on which the signal lamps are located are arranged so that patrolmen are always in direct view of the signal lamp. The desk officer in the precinct by pressing the button turns on the current which flashes the light, attracting the attention of the officer.

A citizens' push button is also provided in the box on the lamps to which the signal lamp is attached. By pressing this button the citizen can also call the patrolman without communicating with the station house.

The lamp in use has a specially designed lens, which throws a light of sufficient brilliancy to attract attention even on a bright day at a distance of about 700 feet to 1,000 feet. The experiments with the flash light system have proved so satisfactory that it is the intention during this year to extend it to a number of other precincts.

In a number of precincts in which the fixed post was formerly in effect the post known as a signal box post has been established. In this system the patrolman is assigned to a post on a block on which a police signal box is located. By means of a bell attached to the box it is possible to call a patrolman and to give instructions concerning any police service to be rendered at locations close to his post.

In some of the suburban precincts a system of bicycle patrol has been installed. In these precincts police telephone booths are located at the principal street or road intersections. These booths are in reality substations. A patrolman is stationed at the booth during all tours of duty and the booth is connected with the police station by a direct police telephone wire and is also connected with the local telephone exchange.

The patrol service in these precincts is entirely on bicycles and motorcycles, the patrolmen being provided with bicycles and the sergeants and other superior officers with motorcycles.

During the year seven officers were killed in the performance of duty.

In his report to the Mayor Commissioner Woods says:

"There has long been felt in the department the need for a fund from which immediate temporary relief could be given to the families and dependents of those who have been called upon to sacrifice their lives in the performance of duty. The deaths of three officers during a period of two months again emphasize this need. The fund was established immediately after the death of Detective Sergeant Guarnieri, through the generosity and the suggestion of a citizen who provided an initial fund of $1,000. Contributions were also received from other citizens. In order that the fund might be put upon a more substantial basis plans were arranged and successfully carried out for an exhibition of athletic events, drills, &c., given by the members of the force on two days, known as police field days. The results were most gratifying. The members of the force participating in the events gave a splendid exhibition and through the liberal response of the public and of the force $85,000 was added to the honor roll relief fund."

Seventy-eight members of the force were retired during the year on account of disability and forty were retired on their own applications, having completed the period of required service and being 55 years of age or over. During the previous year 302 were retired for disability and 88 for service.

Pensions were also granted to 106 widows of police officers and to eighteen children, and pensions previously granted to four children were increased.

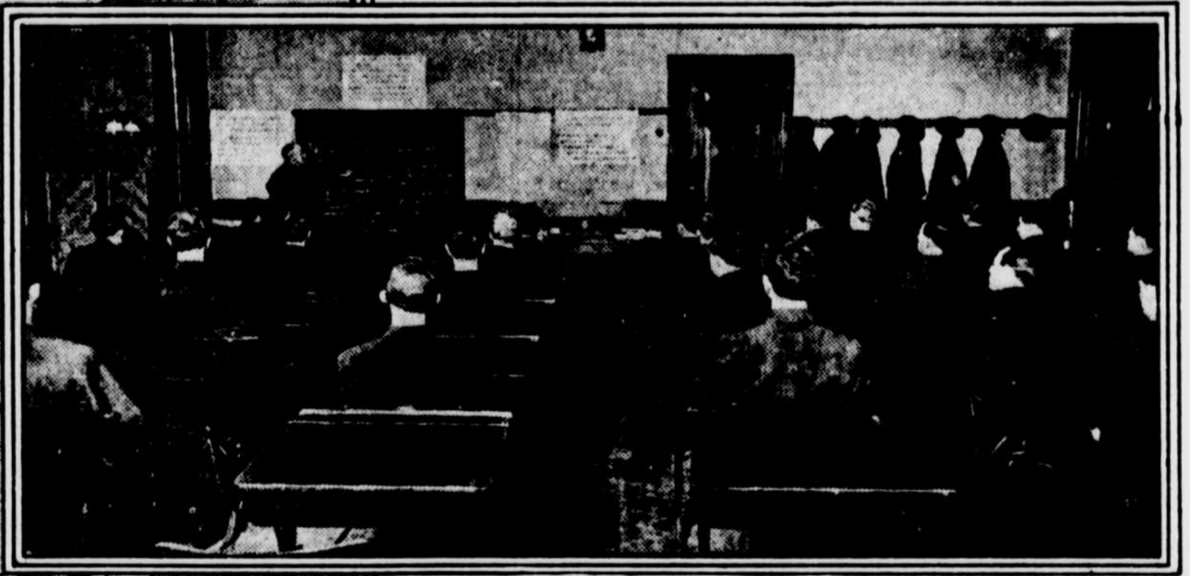
The annual liability of the Pension Fund was increased during the year $11,054.76, as compared with $270,963.33 for the previous year. This is a decrease of 95.9 per cent. and is more significant when it is considered that the liability added during any year means not only an increased charge for that year but for many years.

Commissioner Woods concludes his report with the following statement on the subject of imperative department needs:

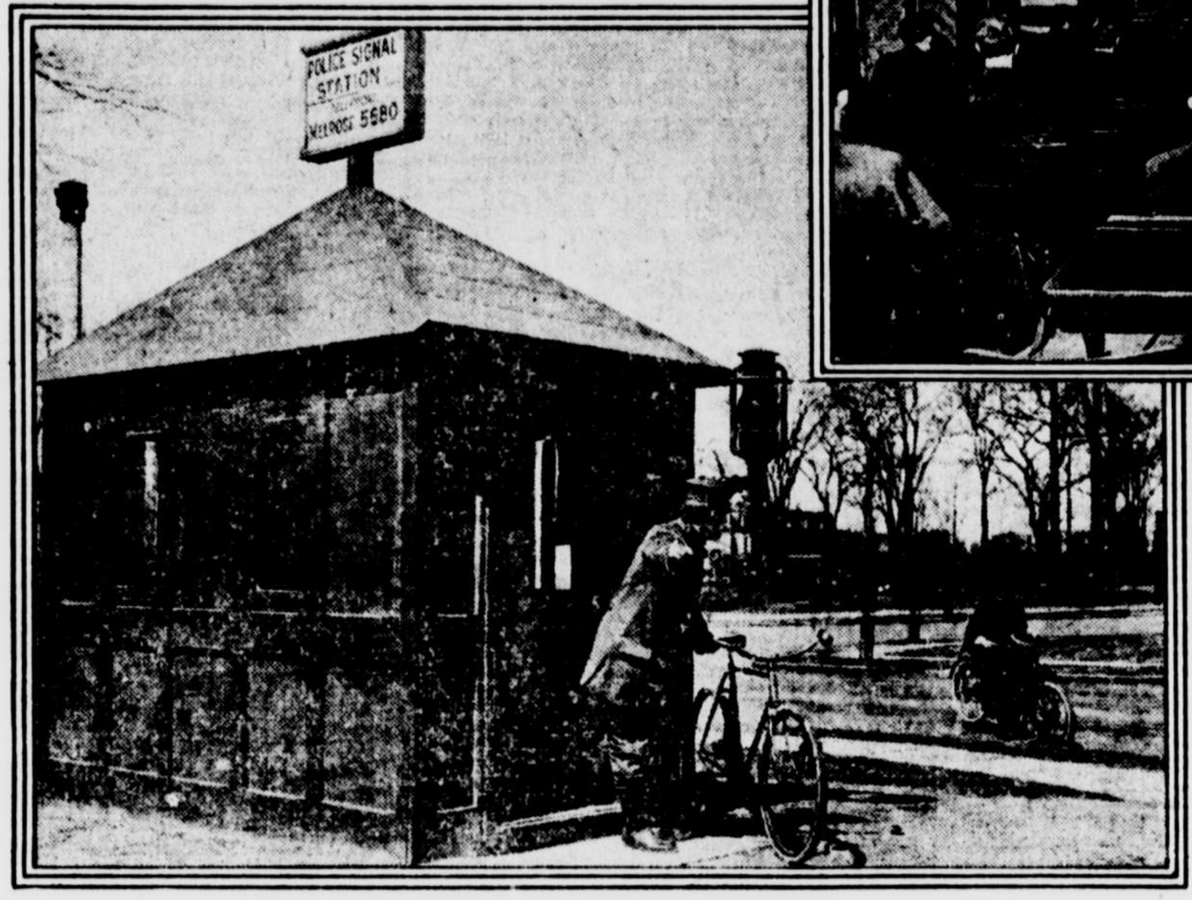
"For a number of years adequate provision has not been made for the erection of police stations to replace rented property and to replace those which are no longer suitable or fit for use. Corporate stock funds should be provided for the erection of nineteen new station houses at a total cost, including sites, of approximately $2,150,000, and for additions and alterations to several other buildings at a total cost of approximately $185,000.

"It is extremely important that provision be made in the near future for the extension of the telephone plant to meet the rapidly growing demands and for the replacement of obsolete and worn out equipment. Sixty thousand dollars should be made available for this purpose.

"The department now has in service fourteen motor patrol wagons. This equipment has given splendid service and both in respect to improved service and economy is so far superior to the horse drawn equipment that there should be little delay in providing motor equipment throughout for this service. Including two extra emergency vehicles it is thought that ten motor patrols at a total cost of about $25,000 would replace the remaining horse drawn wagons."



Training school for police recruits, the course of which has been extended to twelve weeks.



Starting a motorcycle policeman on a hurry call from police signal station in an outlying district.

Above—A citizen calling for police assistance by the new flashlight system.

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BALTIMORE FINANCIER 100 TO-MORROW

William Wallace Spence, Born in Waterloo Year, Gives His Recipe for Success

William Wallace Spence, one of Baltimore's leading citizens, will celebrate his 100th birthday to-morrow. Heretofore this anniversary has been made the occasion of a family reunion and dinner, but within the past six months Mr. Spence has been ailing and hence the family has decided to forego the usual festivities.

Mr. Spence was the founder of the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company of Baltimore and its president until twenty-three years ago, when his son-in-law, Gen. John Gill, since deceased, succeeded him. He was an associate of Johns Hopkins, founder of Johns Hopkins University; of John H. B. Latrobe, the engineer, and of other Baltimoreans who a generation ago helped to develop the city.

Mr. Spence has always maintained that he could trace his great longevity to no special cause other than moderate and regular habits. He never at any time in his life took special interest in athletics or found relaxation in any special hobby or avocation. He has always slept well, and continues to do so now, and has spent a life remarkably free of illness.

Most Baltimoreans are familiar with his history. Mr. Spence himself insists that it was uneventful. He was born October 18, 1815, in Edinburgh, Scotland, the year in which the battle of Waterloo was fought. His father was a practising physician and gave him a good education. At the age of 18 he left Scotland for the United States. His capital was twenty pounds sterling ($100).

The voyage over was slow and tempestuous, lasting nearly seventy days. For six months he remained in New York, securing employment as a shipping clerk; then he went to Norfolk and engaged in the shipping trade. He prospered and at the end of seven years left for Baltimore, which offered greater opportunities. Then he entered into partnership with Andrew Reid and the firm of Spence & Reid was known wherever the old clipper ships made port.

Some time ago when asked to what he attributed his success he answered laughingly, "Providence, I guess." In a more serious mood he added:

"Possibly I had a little natural ability which, when exercised with all the energy at my command, brought me a fair measure of success. I was always ambitious.

"The young man of to-day must not be satisfied with doing his day's work. I am not sure that opportunities are as abundant now as then, but the young man who would succeed must fit himself to take advantage of the opportunity when it does come. The clerk must make up his mind to be more than a clerk and prepare himself while he works. Then when his chance comes he will be ready.

"If I were to give any advice to the young man of to-day it would be something like this: Be ambitious, prepare yourself for greater things so as to be ready when your opportunity comes. Aim high and put all of the energy you possess into the accomplishment of your object. Be honest, work hard and you will win."

In 1847, the year of the Irish famine, Mr. Spence made $75,000 when corn jumped from 40 cents to $1 a bushel, and thus laid the foundation on which he accumulated a fortune. Later he became associated with Johns Hopkins in many ventures. In 1875 Mr. Spence practically retired from active business. He has interested himself in many charitable enterprises and his public spirit is shown in the statue of William Wallace, the Scotch hero, which he erected in Druid Hill Park.

Until his ninety-seventh year Mr. Spence was as hale and hearty as a man of 60 and not infrequently took long walks by himself. In speaking of the many changes in methods and the improvements made since he embarked in business, Mr. Spence once remarked that he had often heard the expression, "If our fathers could come back and see the changes time, intelligence and industry have wrought they would open their eyes in astonishment."

"This may probably be true," he went on, "but the astonishment would soon disappear in a desire to use modern appliances for business purposes. My old associates, if they came back, would look at a telephone, have it explained to them and in ten minutes would be calling up to make commercial transactions with some interest at the other end.

"So with the elevators. They would use them with equal promptness as any present day citizen, and it would be more with delight than surprise that the electric cars, the steam cars and the ocean steamers would be utilized for quick transit of themselves and their merchandise."

Mr. Spence dropped into a metaphysical strain as his mind wandered back to the old days of stage coaches, sailing vessels and bolster wagons.

"After all it is only the case of a child with a new toy or something which adds to its comfort and pleasure," he said. "The first surprise is brief, but the utility of the article lasts as long as the article itself or until it is superseded by something which serves the same purpose to a better degree. So it would be with my old companions, and it is time to destroy the illusion that they would be paralyzed by seeing what progressiveness has wrought for the convenience of the warehouse, the factory and the home."

Two years ago when he returned from York Harbor, where he enjoyed a vacation, he was asked about his daily routine. His reply was:

"I eat three meals and enjoy them. I am not restricted in my diet, but take my meals with the family and eat all they do, and at times, I think, with more relish. I am fond of coffee in the morning, and always drink it, and as much of it as I want.

"In the evening I drink tea, and also enjoy that. I am very fond of a glass of buttermilk in the middle of the day, but do not always take it, though usually I do when it is warm. Sweet milk I do not care for and rarely touch. It is not because it has any bad effects—I simply do not like it.

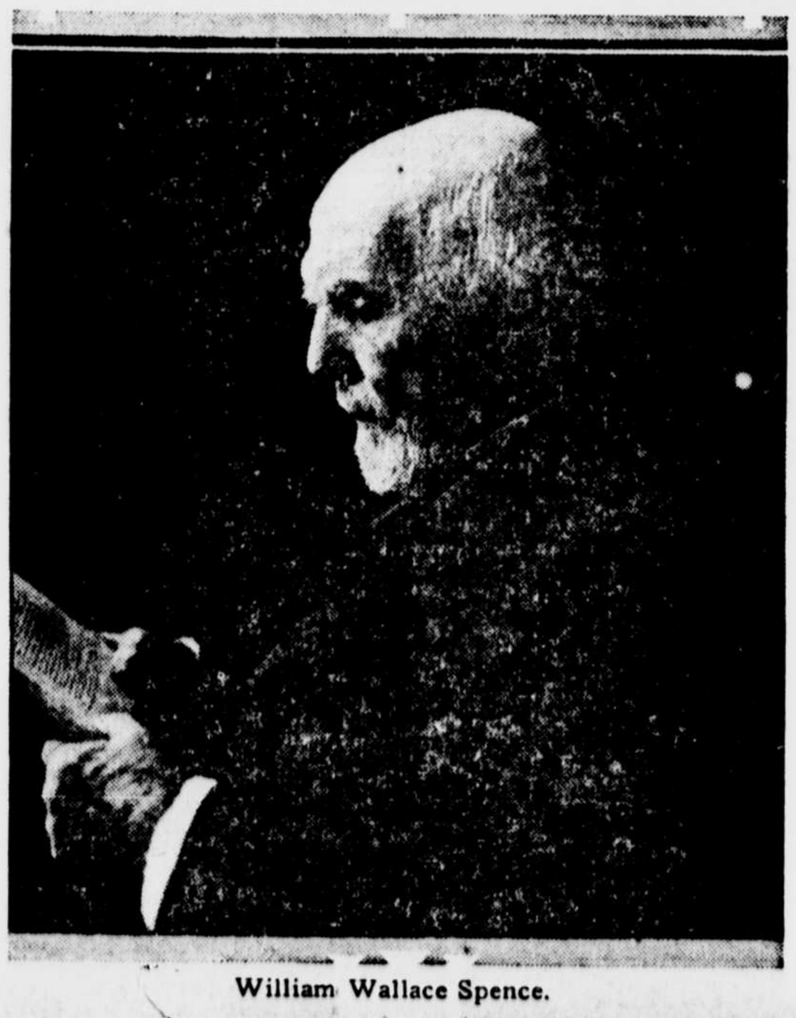
"No, I have never had it prescribed for me by a physician; in fact, they do not prescribe anything, for I don't consult them.

"I smoke four cigars a day and enjoy them too. In fact, I would not like to be deprived of my smoke after each meal and at night before retiring. Do they interfere with my rest? Not at all. Haven't I just told you that I sleep soundly? I meant that, for it is a fact.

"For exercise I walk in my garden in the mornings when the weather permits, and occasionally stroll up and down the sidewalk outside. Every afternoon I ride behind my horses in the park, or visit some suburban places around the city. I keep three horses and try to keep them going."

Mr. Spence never acquired the automobile habit. He has never ridden in one and has never expressed a desire to do so.

Mr. Spence is a Presbyterian and helped to form the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, now one of the largest and wealthiest in Baltimore. He always was an enthusiast in regard to municipal art, and, with Theodore Marburg and others, organized the Municipal Art Society, of which he is a director. Among the charities, in which he always took a deep interest, are the Presbyterian Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, the Aged Men's and Women's homes and the Egenton Orphan Asylum.



William Wallace Spence.

OLD TIME INDIAN SUMMERS.

"I SEE that the advent of the Indian summer has already been hailed by at least one exuberant poet," said the gray haired young looking man, "and it is not yet the middle of October. There seems to be something about the pretty name the old Puritans gave to the beautiful season they enjoyed so much that sticks in the fancy of poets and young people, even although the season itself never comes around any more. At least it does not in New York city.

"I have lived here now for a good many years, and not in more than a quarter of a century have I seen an Indian summer; but in my early boyhood in New England I knew and enjoyed them as well as my elders did.

"The real Indian summer was a season of a week or ten days usually, but not always quite a week in duration. It never came until after the winter had set in. That used to be in November. I always counted on skating as a part of the fun of Thansgiving day, but sometimes the Indian summer would begin early enough to spoil the ice for Thanksgiving. Not usually, for the Indian summer was not due till the very end of November.

"Then, or perhaps at the beginning of December, would begin the most delightful season of the year. We boys would lay aside the overcoats and woollen tippets that we had put on for the winter and go outdoors without them.

"Nowadays I hear people say the Indian summer has come on the first warm day that happens after the first cold snap of the autumn.

"Yes, I know that the Weather Bureau denies vehemently that the climate has changed any in the last fifty years. Perhaps it hasn't. I am not strenuous as to the use of words and I do not insist that it has changed. But I do know positively that it is very different from what it used to be, and one of the differences is that we do not have Indian summers any more."

INGERSOLL AND THE SCOT

"NOT so long after New York's great blizzard," said a one time Brooklyn physician, "that people had forgotten its terrors, I had a call one evening to go to Manhattan on an urgent case. Urgency alone took me out, for the weather was simply awful, with snow and sleet and wind and all the blizzard concomitants. So bad was it that there was only one other passenger in the car.

"It was about 7 o'clock and the other passenger looked nervous. He finally spoke to me and said with considerable pride that he was on his way to dine with Col. Ingersoll at his home in Seventeenth street. He said he was a Boston born Scotchman, and a master mechanic with the Scotch taste for theology and he had studied the Bible to the best of his ability, and his studies had not increased his faith.

"When Col. Ingersoll came to Boston to lecture he went to hear him. When the time came for asking questions, as it always did in these theological lectures, he stood up and asked the Colonel if he knew there were two chapters in the Bible exactly alike, written at different times by different men, the only difference being that one of them had one verse less than the other, and would he or could he explain it.

"The Colonel replied that he thought he knew the Bible pretty well, but he didn't know of anything like that in it, though he wasn't so much surprised that one writer had cribbed a verse as that he hadn't cribbed more. The audience laughed and Col. Ingersoll asked him to come up on the platform. Col. Ingersoll had him name the two similar chapers, nineteenth chapter of II. Kings and the thirty-seventh chapter of Isaiah, and read verse after verse for purposes of comparison, making such comments as only Col. Ingersoll could make, and the audience was in great glee.

"After the lecture was over Col. Ingersoll asked him to go to his hotel with him, where they had supper, and when they parted the Colonel told him he was so much pleased with his success at the lecture and also their subsequent talk that he thought they should make an annual event of it and he would be glad if he would dine with him at his home in New York on that date the following year.

"Of course my acquaintance said he felt only too highly honored and would be most pleased to come over from Boston if the Colonel wouldn't forget it. The Colonel said he needn't be afraid on that score, and they parted the best of friends, notwithstanding the difference in their social positions. The Scotchman was canny, however, and he had no idea of either embarrassing himself or Col. Ingersoll by turning up unexpectedly at Col. Ingersoll's home for dinner one year from that evening, considering himself to have been sufficiently honored already. But he had misreckoned the kind of a man Col. Ingersoll was, for when the date was approaching a year later he received a reminder and an invitation. Of course he accepted and of course he dined with the Colonel, and the custom had continued now for several years and he would rather miss anything else in the world than dining that evening with Col. Ingersoll.

"I assured him that Col. Ingersoll would be expecting him, rain or shine, and knowing what blizzard transportation was in New York would hold the dinner till breakfast time and he needn't worry about missing it."

When the doctor had finished his story a grim visaged party, wearing the style of whisker known to the ungodly as "Presbyterians" and firmly believing in the fiery furnace style of hell, rose to the surface.

"That's a good story, doctor," he said with confidence, "and I don't doubt your Scotch fellow passenger, but if he and Col. Ingersoll had made even a casual study of the Bible the similarity of chapters in II. Kings to other portions, especially of Isaiah and Jeremiah, would have been apparent, and a real study would have explained it.

"Still, Col. Ingersoll's wonderful personality overcame a world of argument and I suppose all the theologians in the city couldn't succeed in a lifetime in as nearly convincing a promiscuous audience that the Bible was inspired as Col. Ingersoll could convince it to the contrary. ... I knew Col. Ingersoll, and ... account I hope he was ... belief about hell."